

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A drawing machine with a caterpillar conveyor for drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die, in which said caterpillar conveyor comprises a first chain carrier and a second chain carrier, the first tool chain and the second tool chain forming a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move and at least one of the chain carriers being displaceable in a frame (15) absorbing press-on forces between the tool chains, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a first frame half (16, 17) is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half (16, 17) on a second side of the drawing plane, and the first frame half (16, 17) and the second frame half (16, 17) are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame is configured to be substantially symmetrical.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set

forth in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the frame carries the two chain carriers.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame is standing on a base or the floor.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein first chain wheels for guiding the first tool chain are disposed on the first chain carrier.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein second chain wheels for guiding a second tool chain are disposed on the second chain carrier.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ comprising means for neutralizing press-on forces within the frame (15) so that first press-on forces, which are applied to a first press-on plane side (41) and second press-on forces, which are applied to a second press-on plane side (42), are neutralizing each other within said frame (15).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 7~~ claim 1, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein means for neutralizing press-on forces are configured to be symmetrical with respect to a drawing plane (19) and/or with respect to a press-on plane (40).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 8~~ claim 1, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein means for neutralizing press-on forces are disposed on both the first frame half (16) and the second frame half (17).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 9~~ claim 1, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein means for neutralizing press-on forces are disposed in a tensile region (30) of the frame halves (16, 17).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 10~~ claim 1, characterized by comprising a force splitter (21) by means of which press-on forces (13) applied for drawing the workpiece (10) are distributed between the frame halves (16, 17), symmetrically with respect to the drawing plane (19).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the force splitter (21) traverses the drawing plane (19).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 12~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the caterpillar conveyor (1) comprises a gantry that carries adjusting means for at least one of the two chain carriers (2, 3), said adjusting means being substantially disposed in the drawing plane (19).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 13~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the caterpillar conveyor (1) comprises a gantry that carries first adjusting means for the first chain carrier (2) and second adjusting means for the second chain carrier (3), said first and second adjusting means being substantially disposed in the drawing plane (19).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in the ~~claims 13 or 14~~ claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the adjusting means comprise at least one hydraulic cylinder for adjusting the chain carriers (2, 3).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 13 through 15~~ claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gantry is configured to be symmetrical with respect to the drawing plane (19) and/or the press-on plane (40) in the region opposing the press-on forces.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 16~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame (15) and a gantry for holding the adjusting means for chain carriers (2, 3) are identical.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 17~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two frame halves (16, 17) are joined together by means of connecting means.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting means comprise a force splitter (21).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 19~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a tensile element (frame region 30), which is devised to be symmetrical with respect to the

drawing plane, is provided between a force splitter (21) and/or a connecting means for the first chain carrier (2) provided between the frame halves (16, 17) and a force splitter (21) and/or a connecting means for the second chain carrier (3) provided between the frame halves (16, 17).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 1 through 20~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the drawing die (11) is disposed on the frame (15) with symmetrically formed supporting means (31) so that forces acting onto the drawing die (11) are introduced substantially symmetrically into the two frame halves (16, 17).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the supporting means (31) include at least one cross-tie (32) having a direction component pointing toward the frame (15).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The drawing machine as set forth in claim 21 ~~or 22~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the supporting means include at least one cross-tie (32) having a component departing from the drawing die (11) and leading toward the frame (15) , away from the drawing path (12).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method of drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die, by which the workpiece to be drawn is conveyed by means of a first and a second tool chain of a caterpillar conveyor, said first tool chain being held by a first chain carrier and said second tool chain being held by a second chain carrier, at least one of said chain carriers being displaceable for applying press-on forces and said first and said second tool chain forming a drawing plane in which the workpiece is moved, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the press-on forces are applied in the drawing plane.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the press-on forces are applied above and below a press-on plane containing a drawing path (12) and oriented vertically with respect to the drawing plane (40).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in claim 24 ~~or 25, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one chain carrier (2, 3) is aligned with respect to the linear workpiece (10), the at least one chain carrier (2, 3) being retained in the drawing plane (19) by at least one adjusting means, and is moved and aligned in the drawing plane (19) with respect to the linear workpiece (10) to be drawn.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 24 through 26~~ claim 24, characterized in that wherein a frame (16, 17) or gantry opposes press-on forces needed for drawing the workpiece symmetrically with respect to the drawing plane.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in claim 27, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame or gantry receives press-on forces between the tool chains.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The method ~~A drawing machine~~ as set forth in claim 27 ~~or 28~~, characterized in that wherein the frame carries the two chain carriers.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The method ~~The drawing machine~~ as set forth in ~~any one of the claims 27 through 29~~ claim 27, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame is standing on a base or the floor.